



REVOLT AGAINST THIS RACIST SYSTEM

FULL COVERAGE AND ANALYSIS OF GLOBAL PROTESTS >>PAGES 2 TO 6 HOW BLOOD OF SLAVERY
FED CAPITALIST SYSTEM >PAGES 10&11 ARE ALL WHITE PEOPLE RACIST? >PAGES 14&15

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RISE UP



BRITAIN IS NOT INNOCENT

PICTURE: PA

THE THINGS
THEY SAY**‘They’ve done a great job with Covid-19, as you know, in the state of Oklahoma’**

US president Donald Trump announces Tulsa as location for his first election rally

‘Large groups of people congregated in close contact for prolonged periods of time’

Tulsa health department reports the largest spike in coronavirus cases in Oklahoma two days after Trump’s announcement

‘A new form of the Taliban was born in the UK today’

Unemployed racist Nigel Farage keeps his head when anti-racists pull down slaver Edward Colston’s statue

‘A hard-left group has been accused of hijacking the Black Lives Matter protest movement’

The Times newspaper is shocked to discover socialists are part of anti-racism protests

‘They come on every single demonstration there is’

Labour MP Khalid Mahmood blasts Socialist Worker Party members for showing a bit of commitment that is sadly lacking in much of his Labour Party



Anti-racist rebellion grows in Britain

Thousands of people across Britain joined another wave of Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests over the weekend. Socialist Worker reports

IN A sign of the breadth and depth of the movement, there were major demonstrations in smaller towns and cities not usually known for political mobilisations.

Many were planned locally in a spontaneous manner, rather than by any long-established campaign or organisation.

Police said there were 1,500 people at the rally in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, where protesters held a minute’s silence for George Floyd.

One speaker told the crowd, “We are sick of this racism. They say we are free but we are not.”

In Kent there were up to 1,000 people each on demonstrations in Canterbury and Thanet. The demonstration in Canterbury filled Dane John Gardens in the city centre and ended outside the police station.

And in Thanet, a huge demonstration marched from Ramsgate Bandstand to Broadstairs where they knelt in silence for George Floyd. Campaigners there have already forced the council

to cover up a plaque to blackface minstrel performer Uncle Mack.

A spokesperson for the People Dem Collective, who organised the march in Thanet, said, “Today was the definition of unity. The amount of people from here and surrounding areas, young and old and people of every colour together as one.

“It was beautiful to witness, be part of and organise. The movement will continue and we, the People Dem will create change.”

Around 1,000 people were reported to have joined a rally in Stafford. Adam Brooks, originally from Stafford, travelled from Birmingham to join it.

“I’m really pleased so many people have turned up,” he said. “Stafford is only a small town so it’s made me proud to see how many people care.

“It seems more and more people are fighting for the cause. It’s not just a black movement anymore.”

In Brighton around 1,000 people formed a human chain along the seafront for a silent BLM protest



THERE WAS a big protest in Canterbury, and in many small towns

and then much greater numbers marched to The Level park.

James Butler from Hove was at the rally. He said, “It was amazing to see so many people come out in support of this cause.

“The idea that it isn’t enough to be non-racist, you need to be actively anti-racist, really resonated with me.”

In the Midlands there were 500 people in Stratford upon Avon on

Friday, plus a demonstration of 400 in Kenilworth on Saturday and a demonstration in Nuneaton on Sunday.

Hundreds took part in Telford. Some 600 marched in Chichester.

There were around 300 people at a rally in Barry, south Wales.

The reach of the demonstrations—and the huge numbers of people they have involved—show this is a powerful movement posing a real challenge to racist Britain.

marched while drivers honked their horns in solidarity. Thousands of people also protested in Leeds. Glenn Skeete said he joined the protest to demand a better future for his young son.

“Hopefully for my son, by the time he’s my age he will feel free to walk the streets and be in employment without being looked at and think he’s second class,” he said.

the city centre. You don’t see black people working in Liverpool One [shopping centre]—where are we? We’re invisible.”

He added that “nothing has changed for many of us since 1981,” when there was an uprising against police racism in Liverpool.

In the West Midlands, up to 250 people protested in Bearwood and some 300 people protested in Shirley. Protesters in Shirley



Making a stand in Liverpool

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Occupying roads in south London

Big protests across London about more than brutal cops

THERE WERE several protests across London on Saturday and Sunday.

Some of them were in place of a planned mass demonstration in central London, which organisers called off to avoid clashes with Nazi counter-protesters.

Around 1,000 people gathered in Newington Green, on the border between Hackney and Islington.

The organiser of the protest, who wished to remain anonymous, told Socialist Worker that the movement was raising questions wider than the issue of police brutality.

“Over time they regenerated the area, and pumped in millions to the local shops, but they didn’t do anything to support the local estates.”

He said it was “about police brutality, and it’s about making a stand, making a change and saying that everyone in life should have fair opportunities”.

At least 1,000 people joined a “Children’s March Against Racism” in Tottenham, north London, and a further 500 at a BLM rally at nearby Alexandra Palace.

Over 1,000 people were reported at a rally in Croydon and 400 in Surbiton, both in south London.

Hundreds marched in Southwark, south London, on Sunday. Tia told Socialist Worker, “It feels like nothing has changed in 30 years. The only way to really change things is if the government enforces laws, but they don’t give a shit.”

Activists take knee for George Floyd

THOUSANDS OF people “took the knee” on Wednesday of last week to protest against racism and remember George Floyd at events across Britain organised by Stand Up To Racism.

There was a fantastic turnout at protests across Greater Manchester.

People took the knee in the middle of the road outside Manchester University, stopping traffic.

In Prestwich, shops shut early to make way for hundreds of people to take the knee in a car park.

In Rusholme protesters took the knee at the plinth of a statue of Abraham Lincoln.

Some 150 people—mostly young—people formed a socially distanced line from Lancaster’s slavery memorial to a road that runs through the city centre.

In west Wales, 80 people protested in Haverfordwest, where a blue plaque to Thomas Picton, governor of Trinidad from 1797–1803 and child torturer, was removed.

In Bishops Cleeve activists “renamed” the Rhodes Centre—named after imperialist Cecil



Health workers from Homerton hospital, east London, show support

Rhodes—to the Felix Cobson Arts Complex. Cobson was a local arts educator from Ghana who taught young people about African history culture, history and art, music and dance.

Earlier in the day, some trade unionists had organised actions

in their workplaces—including at Islington council and Tower Hamlets health workers in London.

In Oxford there were actions by postal workers at Royal Mail House, and by health workers outside Warneford hospital.

Thousands demand that Rhodes falls

AROUND 4,000 people gathered on Tuesday of last week to call for the removal of the statue of the racist and imperialist Cecil Rhodes that fronts Oriel College in central Oxford.

One of the biggest cheers came when Jabu Nala-Hartley, local activist and daughter of a former anti-apartheid trade union leader, called out capitalism for being an imperialist system of exploitation built on the blood of Africans.

“Our struggles are intertwined we are part of global capitalism unleashed by neoliberalism,” she said.

“The whole world is reiterating the old message that we are being persecuted by the police, by the system. This is an old reality,” she added.

She movingly spoke of how her son has been harassed by the police because he is black.

Buoyed by the bigger than expected turnout the protesters remained for two hours vowing to keep up the pressure on the university. Further protests are planned if there is no progress.

When one of the campaign speakers asked for those connected to the university to raise their hands, only a few did.

Raised

But in a sign of the growing movement, when she asked people who lived in Oxford to do the same, the vast majority of the crowd raised their hands. This is why the Labour dominated Oxford city council now fully backs the removal of the statue.

Anneliese Dodds, the Labour shadow chancellor and Oxford East MP said she now also supported the call.

The original Rhodes Must Fall Campaign at Oxford University started in 2015, and was inspired by students who started a successful campaign to have his statue removed from the prestigious University of Cape Town in South Africa.

In January 2016 students at the Oxford Union, a student debating society, voted 245 to 212 in favour of having the statue removed.

Later that month Oriel College and the former Governor of Hong Kong, now Chancellor of Oxford University, Lord Patten, announced the statue would remain. This came after rich donors to the university threatened to pull £100 million of bequests if the statue was removed.

The campaign has come roaring back as part of the protests that continue to sweep the globe in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.

Peter Dwyer

Rhodes

ATLANTA RISES UP TO FIGHT THE KILLER POLICE

by SOPHIE SQUIRE

RAGE AT the police killing of another black man has exploded onto the streets of Atlanta, Georgia, in the US.

Protesters shut down a major motorway last Saturday night and set fire to a Wendy's restaurant, where cops had shot Rayshard Brooks the previous day.

Police had been called to the Wendy's over reports that he had fallen asleep in the drive-through line.

Rayshard's family said that he had been celebrating his daughter's birthday.

He was alleged to have been resisting arrest, but there are conflicting accounts of what happened.

Body cameras worn by police officers didn't capture the shooting as they were thrown to the ground during the incident.

The Fulton County medical examiner's office said an autopsy had shown Rayshard died after being shot twice in the back, and ruled the shooting was homicide.

Garrett Rolfe, the police officer who killed Brooks, has been dismissed from the force and Atlanta

police chief Erika Shields has resigned over the killing. Hundreds of people gathered on Sunday night in front of the Wendy's, chanting, "Say his name! Rayshard Brooks!"

Calling for action against the police Rayshard's wife Tomika Miller said, "If it was my husband who shot them, he would be in jail. He would be doing a life sentence."

"They need to be put away." Protester Marquavian Odom told CNN News, "This is something that keeps happening over and over again."

"We've been protesting about George Floyd and I thought there was going to be a change, but there wasn't a change."

"I thought the message was clear, but obviously we're still not heard." Protest leaders called for supporters to refuse to spend money and refuse to go to work on Juneteenth—19 June—a commemoration of the end of slavery.

Grenades After protesters blocked all the lanes of Interstate 75/I-85, the street where Rayshard was killed, cops used tear gas and flashbang grenades.

Atlanta has seen frequent protests since the murder of George Floyd by police in Minneapolis.

Six Atlanta police officers are facing charges of using excessive force related to the arrest of two college students at a protest at the end of last month.

The rage is forcing concessions from the top.

The liberal New York Times newspaper commented, "In the past, police shootings have rarely prompted such swift and dramatic responses. It is more common for city leaders to stand with the police and urge patience as prosecutors and the police departments conduct reviews."

It added that the "moves by Atlanta officials may have been taken with an eye to the streets."

They hope to head off "a potentially explosive reaction like those that have engulfed many cities over the last several weeks".



PROTESTERS BURNED down the Wendy's restaurant where Atlanta cops killed Rayshard Brooks

Tens of thousands take to streets to say, 'Black Trans Lives Matter'

TENS OF thousands of people joined Black Trans Lives Matter rallies across the US on Sunday.

Two black trans women—Dominique "Rem'mie" Fells of Philadelphia and Riah Milton of Cincinnati, Ohio—were murdered last week.

An estimated 25,000 people marched in Los Angeles to honour Tony McDade, a black transgender man shot by a police officer at the end of May.

"The protest is in direct response to racial injustice, systemic racism, and all forms of oppression," said protest organiser the Black LGBTQIA Advisory Board Council.

In Boston, Massachusetts, thousands chanted, "No justice, no peace, no anti-trans violence on our streets."

And thousands joined a

demonstration to say black transgender lives matter in Brooklyn, New York.

Melania Brown is the sister of Layleen Polanco, a Latina woman who died of an epileptic fit while in solitary confinement in Rikers Island prison last year.

Loved She told the crowd, "Black trans lives matter. My sister's life mattered. All of the loved ones we have lost—their lives matter."

The protests come as US president Donald Trump continues his assault on trans and non-binary people.

He scrapped the part of the Affordable Care Act which protects transgender people from discrimination in health care and insurance coverage on Friday of last week. Right wing and

religious groups have applauded the new rule.

"Health professionals know they must base medical decisions on biology and science, not ideology," said Dr Jeff Barrows, the Christian Medical Association's executive vice president.

But civil rights groups have said this rule sets a potentially fatal precedent.

"A transgender person could be refused care or a check up at a doctor's office," said Lindsey Dawson, associate director of HIV policy at the Kaiser Family Foundation.

A report by LGBT+ think tank the Williams Institute estimated that nearly half a million adult transgender Americans are worried "they could be denied good medical care".

Protests demand probe into California hangings

TWO thousand protesters marched and rallied in Palmdale, California, on Saturday of last week.

It follows the hangings of two black men in California in recent weeks.

Robert Fuller, a 24 year old black man, was found hanging from a tree near the city hall in Palmdale last week.

More than 215,000 people have signed a petition demanding a full investigation.

The family and friends of Robert Fuller believe that he was lynched.

At a news briefing protesters confronted city officials who were quick to describe Fuller's death as a suicide.

City Manager JJ. Murphy said, "Maybe we should have said it was 'an alleged suicide'."

He then added, "Can I also ask that we stop talking about lynchings?" The crowd replied, "Hell No!"

Robert's sister, Diamond Alexander, addressed the



People demand justice for Robert Fuller

protesters near Palmdale's city hall. She said, "We just want the truth."

"My brother was not suicidal."

Protesters pointed out how common it is to see a Confederate flag in their areas.

They said officials should not be quick to dismiss racism as having played a role in Fuller's death.

Los Angeles county supervisor Kathryn Barger has now requested that California's attorney general

hold an independent investigation into Fuller's death.

Authorities are also investigating a separate incident in which Malcolm Harsch, a 38 year old black man, was found hanging from a tree.

Malcolm was found near a homeless encampment in Victorville, 30 miles from Palmdale, on 31 May.

A statement from the Harsch family said, "Considering the current racial tension, a black man hanging himself from a tree definitely doesn't sit well with us right now."

"We want justice not comfortable excuses."

Poor march on White House

THOUSANDS OF people joined events called by faith groups near to the White House last Sunday.

The protesters marched through the streets of Washington DC. They paused at stations to pray for "affordable health care" for "victims of police brutality" and for "the courage to speak truth to power".

They also chanted the names of people killed by police and



Rev William Barber II

spoke of daily acts of racism.

Rev William Barber II of the Poor People's Campaign said police killings and disproportionate

coronavirus deaths of black people were consistent with the US's "unnecessary accepting of death".

He listed the deaths of Native Americans, Africans brought as slaves and children who suffered and died because of child labour practices.

Later a crowd of hundreds gathered as close to the White House as they could get, chanting, "Trump, Pence—out now!"

Hunger strike for freedom

SOME migrants detained by US border guards have gone on hunger strike to show their solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.

In Bakersfield, California, Asif Qazi handed an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) guard a letter.

It read, "We, the detained people of dormitories A, B, and C at Mesa Verde ICE Detention Facility, are protesting and on hunger strike in solidarity with the detained people at Otay Mesa Detention Centre."

"We begin our protest in memory of

our comrades George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Oscar Grant, and Tony McDade."

Asif added, "We're trying to intertwine our causes in one general fight for justice, and we believe ICE falls in the category of corrupt justice officials."

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

RIISING UP AGAINST RACISM TERRIFIES OUR RULERS

BORIS Johnson has announced a new government commission to look into racism in Britain.

He's been forced to act by a hugely inspiring revolt that has insisted that racism and police violence can no longer be ignored.

Johnson, who has a long history of racist outbursts and whose government policies are systematically racist, said the initiative was designed to end "the sense of victimisation".

The problem, he disgracefully suggests, is that black people feel put down when really they should cheer up, stop moaning and celebrate their successes.

It's not a surprise that he completely rejects the idea of institutional racism. He ignores how racist discrimination is about a great deal more than individual attitudes.

Johnson's call for an inquiry was inserted into a much longer piece in the Daily Telegraph newspaper.

It criticised what he sees as a "growing campaign to edit or Photoshop the entire cultural landscape".

He also claimed to "resist with every breath in my body"

any attempt to topple Winston Churchill's statue in central London.

This is the ground he wants to fight on. It can only encourage the far right who took to the streets of London last Saturday

Johnson's commission will be set up by Munira Mirza, head of the government's policy unit. Mirza attacked previous commissions and said they fostered a "culture of grievance".

It will be flawed from the start, a useless sop that will persuade nobody.

But a "better" commission is not the answer. We have seen a parade of such investigations. The Lammy review of 2017 into black people and the justice system

with 35 recommendations. The Angiolini review in the same year into deaths into police custody with 110 recommendations.

The Home Office review into the Windrush scandal this year with 30 recommendations—and there are many more such toothless task forces.

These have been routinely researched written, discussed—and then ignored. Such reports aren't an attempt to tackle racism but an effort to sweep it under the rug.

The movement that began over the police killing of George Floyd has swollen in size and begun to raise concrete demands wider than the issue of police brutality.

More—and harder hitting—action is the way forward.

That means more people joining the Black Lives Matter movement in the coming weeks and months.

Rising up against the system will mean more direct action and more protest. If workers walked out to join protests, or organised anti-racist strikes, that would have a huge impact on the movement.

It would terrify those that rule over our racist system.

Our anger should not be diverted by manoeuvres from the top.

repeated wars, extreme poverty, oppression and climate change.

It's right to fight for a better system. The latest articles are relatively tame compared to the backlash that has been whipped up to target movements in the past. But the aims are the same.

Right wingers are furious that tens of thousands of ordinary people, black and white, are challenging the system.

They want to turn people against each other and weaken the resistance. We need to stay united.

Breakfast in



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ANALYSIS

CHARLIE KIMBER

This uprising has won gains—keep fighting

THE GREAT Black Lives Matter uprising is far from over. But already it has made history.

Normal politics has been torn apart and many objectives that seemed impossible are now on the agenda.

It is the broadest protest movement in US history, reaching beyond the main cities into over 750 places.

So terrifying was the revolt that more than 17,000 members of the National Guard were mobilised ready to support local law enforcement. That was the same number of active duty US troops deployed in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan.

As Martin Luther King said about the 1960s, black people have “slammed the door shut on a past of deadening passivity. These are our bright years of emergence.”

The uprising has transformed opinions. One of the many revealing opinion polls came a few days ago. It found that “In the last two weeks, American voters’ support for the Black Lives Matter movement increased almost as much as it had in the preceding two years.”

It is winning hard cash from reluctant politicians. In Los Angeles, the city council is moving to redirect up to £120 million from the police budget to the most deprived sections of people.

Cases of gross injustice that were previously spurned have suddenly been re-examined. The governor of Washington state has ordered a new investigation into the death of Manuel Ellis, a black man who died more than three months ago in police custody.

Officer

A video, shows Ellis screaming, “I can’t breathe sir. I can’t breathe,” followed by what sounds like an officer saying, “Shut the fuck up.”

Only now, after protests involving millions, is there the slightest chance of justice.

Never say resistance is futile, or that the power structure cannot be moved.

But there is still a long way to go. Racism is deeply embedded in all the structures of US society.

The capitalist system that inevitably delivers low pay and bad housing and early death as well as police violence has strong roots.

President Donald Trump, seeing his support nosedive, will provoke and seek violent racist polarisation.

Faced with Trump’s brutality, many will say the only “realistic” approach is to use the energy and fury of the last few weeks to propel Joe Biden into the White House.

The Democrats’ ability to co-opt and tame revolt should not be underestimated.

But their pull doesn’t work with everyone, especially in the middle of a movement of such scale and depth.

Many of those taking part know that they will be used by Democratic politicians and then the promises of change will be blunted or forgotten.

Enough

As Philadelphia activist Dennis Maurice Dumpson told The Washington Post newspaper last week, “We’ve seen enough to know how this goes and how this plays out.

“I’m tired of going into the same old room with the same old council member and the same state representative who have the same old mind-set.”

There need to be more angry protests.

Those energised by the call for a great reckoning for the murder of George Floyd need to stay on the streets, not be led off into the wastelands of conventional politics.

The focus has to be not the individual behaviour of police but instead the system that encourages and protects them.

The best hope, and one that has to be actively worked for, is that many more people will be open to revolutionary arguments. There is plenty of reason for that to happen.

This uprising comes as 40 million in the US are unemployed and over 115,000 are dead from coronavirus.

It’s time to follow the revolutionary Angela Davis when she said, “the only true path of liberation for black people is the one that leads toward a complete and total overthrow of the capitalist class in this country and all its manifold institutional appendages which ensure its ability to exploit the masses and enslave black people”.



RACISTS AND Nazis gather around the statue of Winston Churchill encased in metal, installed to stop the statue being destroyed

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

5,000 strong far right gathering is a warning to anti-racists

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

AROUND 5,000 Nazis and racists gathered in Parliament Square, central London, last Saturday. Hundreds tried to attack Black Lives Matter (BLM) protesters.

It’s a warning of how the British far right hopes to initiate a backlash against the BLM movement. But they can be humbled.

Later in the day, several thousand people answered calls from musician Megam and others to come to central London to oppose them.

A big group of anti-racists confronted far right protesters on Waterloo Bridge in Southwark (see box).

Earlier in the day, racist groups had streamed out of Charing Cross railway station and towards parliament.

Threat

Sections of the media called them counter-protesters against BLM’s “threat” to statues. In truth they were simply racists.

There was an organised presence from Britain First, the National Front and the remnants of the English Defence League.

After confrontations with the cops near Westminster Bridge, a hundreds-strong breakaway group tore into a BLM protest of up to 100 in

Trafalgar Square.

They threw smoke grenades and beer cans. Some chanted, “Lefty scum,” as they tried to block any getaway routes.

One group kicked a young black man who was on the ground.

Earlier in the day the Nazis had hurled racist abuse at passers-by with slurs including, “You black bastard.”

Up to 300 supporters of Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) joined a counter-protest in Hyde Park where they faced

abuse and intimidation from the far right.

Nazi Tommy Robinson had called on his supporters to “protect” the statue of former Tory prime minister Winston Churchill in Parliament Square.

He pulled out the day before the protest.

The Parliament Square protest was the biggest far right mobilisation since the summer of 2018.

Then hardcore fascists, supporters of Ukip, younger people inspired by the US

alt right and other racists united to defend Robinson. Saturday’s gathering was almost exclusively male, middle aged and more hardcore.

There were small far right gatherings outside London to “defend” statues that had never been under threat.

In Newcastle around 200 confronted BLM protesters. In Leeds, far right thugs targeted BLM protesters in the city centre on Sunday.

Challenged

Such mobilisations must be challenged. But the real story of the last few weeks is the size of the anti-racist movement.

The far right is incensed because so many black and white people have taken to the streets across Britain.

The fascists’ 5,000 was small compared to the 50,000 anti-racists who came out on 6 June and their monster march last Sunday.

BLM organisers had planned another central London demonstration for last Saturday.

They called it off due to fears of clashes with the far right and coronavirus concerns.

Having tens of thousands of people united on the streets is the best way to demoralise the far right and stop them from regrouping.

Activists challenge racists

ANTI-RACISTS marched from Trafalgar Square to Waterloo Bridge on Saturday chanting, “Fuck EDL,” and, “No justice—no peace.” Protesters reportedly brought traffic to a standstill as they took over the bridge. Video footage shows car drivers honking their support.

Demonstrators tried to confront EDL supporters in Waterloo station, but were blocked by cops.

Protesters faced riot cops, who charged the demonstration and penned in protesters several

times on the bridge.

One protester tweeted, “Cops charged for no reason. No doubt this peaceful march will be met with violence.”

The mainstream media focused on Patrick Hutchinson, a black man who removed an alleged far right protester from the crowd. The media has used this to try and paint anti-racist protests as violent. But a counts from those who were there describe the mood as “good humoured”. The threats of violence came from the cops and the Nazis.

Tories try to hide truth of black Covid death rate

Racism and discrimination expose black people to a greater risk, says a censored government report

RACISM AND social inequality has contributed to the higher death rates from coronavirus among black and Asian people.

That's the damning conclusion of a leaked document from Public Health England (PHE).

It says that "historic racism and poorer experiences of healthcare or at work" meant black and minority ethnic (BAME) people were less likely to seek medical attention.

And they were less likely to challenge bosses over health and safety in the workplace.

The report concludes that racism and social factors are key to understanding the unequal impact of Covid-19 on BAME communities.

These range "from social and economic inequalities, racism, discrimination and stigma, occupational risk, inequalities in the prevalence of conditions that increase the severity of disease including obesity, diabetes, hypertension and asthma".

Evidence from stakeholders "pointed to racism and discrimination experienced by communities and more specifically BAME key workers as a root cause to exposure risk and disease progression".

The report adds, "Racism and discrimination experienced by BAME key workers is a root cause affecting health and exposure risk."

Trust

"For BAME communities, lack of trust of NHS services resulted in reluctance to seek care."

The document informed some of the findings of a PHE report published at the beginning of the month.

It had found that BAME people in England were up to twice as likely to die of coronavirus as whites.

But there was outrage that it gave no analysis as to what lay behind the figures or recommendations. And, soon afterwards, it was revealed that the Tory government had omitted 69 pages from the report.

The section "did not survive contact with health secretary Matt Hancock's office", according

FIGURE IT OUT

2 times more likely—the greater risk that black and minority ethnic (BAME) people have of dying of coronavirus than white people

69 The number of pages the government removed from a Public Health England report. The report looked at what makes the risk greater for BAME people

to a source in the Health Service Journal.

There's little wonder the Tories are resisting calls to publish the report when the Black Lives Matter movement has put institutional racism onto the agenda.

Dr Chaand Nagpaul, the British Medical Association council's chair, has demanded the report be published in full.

Outcry

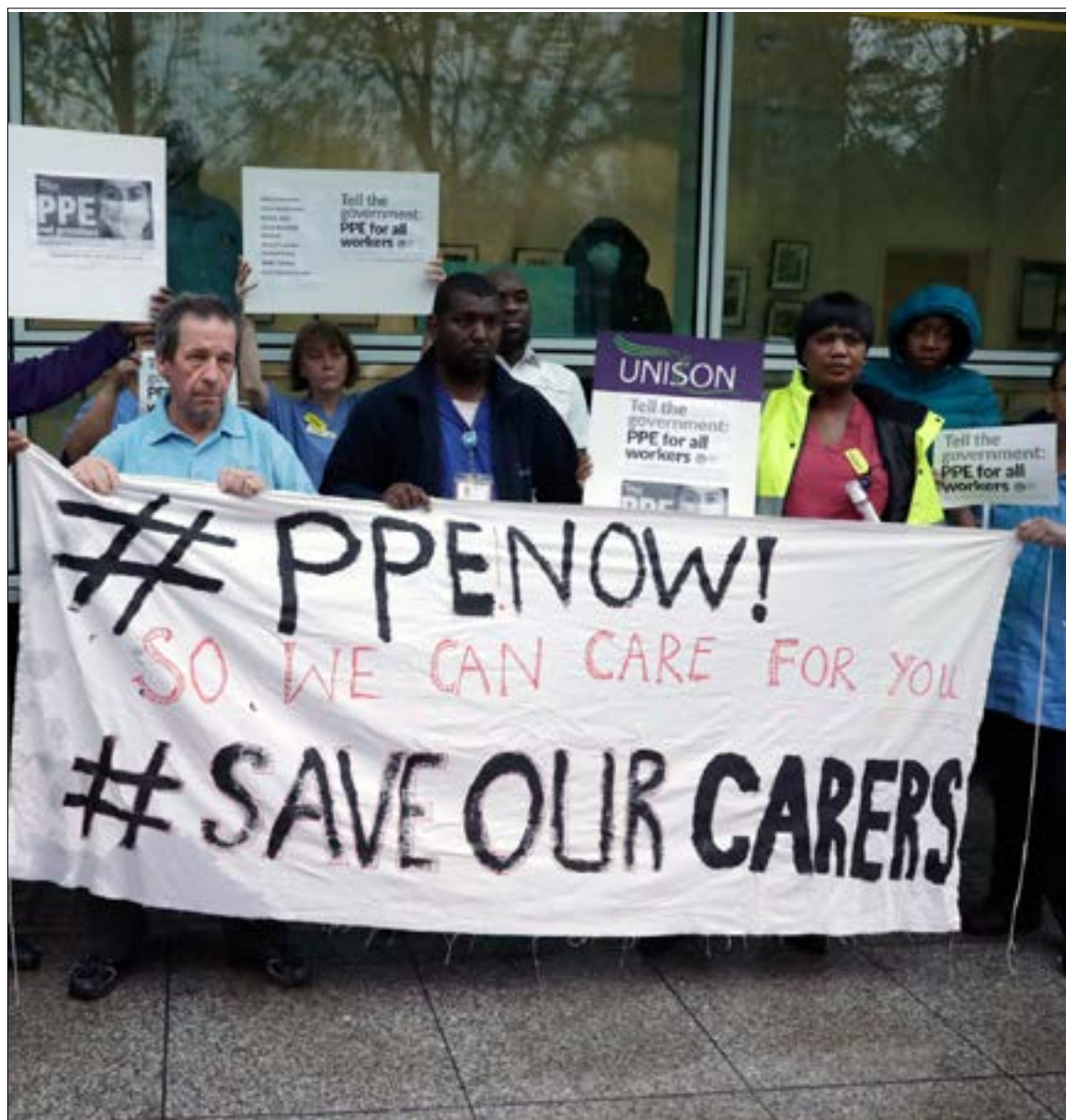
He said, "I'm finding it inexplicable the government did not release the full report at a time when the BAME community suffered so disproportionately with the virus, but also when there was global outcry and outrage to racial inequalities."

"A clear response is needed as to why these pages and important recommendations were omitted."

"Especially when it is so critical that action is taken to save lives now and reduce race inequalities."

Stand Up To Racism is calling for a public inquiry into BAME deaths from coronavirus. An open letter by the group calls for an inquiry, the recording of the ethnic backgrounds of "all Covid-19 patients" and "no end to the lockdown until it is safe to do so".

Its call is supported by Labour politicians, major trade unions and black and Muslim organisations.



HEALTH WORKERS at UCH hospital, central London, in April demanding action over the NHS crisis

Ten million people could soon be stuck on waiting lists for NHS care

HEALTH BOSSES fear the Covid-19 crisis could see the number of people waiting for NHS treatment double to ten million by the end of the year.

The estimate comes from the NHS Confederation.

The figures underline that the NHS was so weakened by cuts and privatisation that it was wholly unprepared for Covid-19.

When the virus hit, all other areas of health provision were stopped or drastically reduced in order to prioritise the treatment of coronavirus patients.

And in mid-March thousands of older patients were moved from hospitals to care homes—with no tests to check if they had the virus.

The projection came as a top scientific adviser to the government said thousands of deaths could have been prevented if the Tories had acted sooner.

Professor Neil Ferguson, whose modelling helped shape the coronavirus response strategy, said, "We knew the epidemic was doubling every three to four days before lockdown interventions were introduced."

"So had we introduced lockdown measures a week earlier,

we would have reduced the final death toll by at least a half."

The total number of people waiting to undergo a procedure in a hospital in England stood at 4.4 million before the pandemic.

They included operations such as a hernia repair, cataract removal or hip or knee replacement.

As the coronavirus crisis hit, GPs referred fewer patients for care to try and stop hospitals becoming overwhelmed. This meant the figure then fell to 4.2 million.

But the NHS Confederation estimates that it is likely to reach 9.8 million by the end of the year.

Shortages

This is a result of staff shortages and hospitals having to cap the number of patients they can treat because of physical distancing rules.

The NHS Confederation said emergency funding and longer-term spending were needed.

It added that care was being delivered by "exhausted and traumatised staff" and that health bosses had to stay prepared for a second wave.

The Royal College of Nursing pointed out that the NHS in England was short of about 40,000

nurses. It warned it will be a "struggle" for "burnt-out" nursing staff on short-staffed wards, care homes or in clinics to restart services.

"The legacy of this pandemic is yet to dawn—the professionals are still focused on the here and now," a spokesperson said.

Over the past fortnight, cardiology services have restarted in England.

But the British Heart Foundation warned last Friday of a backlog, as an estimated 28,000 heart procedures had been delayed since the outbreak of coronavirus.

Cancer services are also starting to reopen.

Cancer Research estimates that about 2.4 million people in Britain are waiting for screening, treatment or tests, with a potential 23,000 cancers having gone undiagnosed during lockdown.

The Tories have created appalling problems in the NHS. Their reckless abandonment of the lockdown to drive people back to work will make them worse.

Johnson insisted on Wednesday last week that it was "too early to judge ourselves".

It's not. Get the Tories out.

Powerful movements are linking up in France

Working class people are bringing battles against racism and austerity together, reports **Charlie Kimber**

MILITANT ANTI-RACISM and the fight against austerity are coming together powerfully in France.

Tens of thousands have joined protests against racism, despite police bans. And on Tuesday there were mass demonstrations and strikes demanding higher pay for health workers, and an end to cuts and closures.

Saturday's anti-racist protest in Paris brought over 20,000 people onto the streets. It was called by the Committee for Adama. Adama Traore was a man of African origin suffocated by three police officers in 2016 in Paris.

Assa Traore, Adama's sister and a leading anti-racist activist, said on Saturday, "The death of George Floyd has a strong echo in the death in France of my little brother."

"What's happening in the United States is happening in France. Our brothers are dying."

She urged, "Nobody must remain a spectator."

Far right Generation Identity activists unfurled a banner with the slogans, "anti-white racism" and, "white lives matter" from the rooftop of a building overlooking the protest.

Residents emerged onto their balconies and ripped it up with knives and scissors, to cheers from below.

Police later used tear gas against the anti-racist protesters. Other anti-racist protests took place in Lyon, Rouen and Marseille.

Alliances

Assa Traore also backed the health protests. She said, "We have created alliances, with the cleaning women, with the Yellow Vests, with care workers."

Hundreds of demonstrations took place across France and seven health union federations called for protest strikes. Patients' organisations and campaign groups backed the day of action.

In a joint statement they said successive governments' austerity has caused "huge problems" in care.

BACK STORY

Health workers held a day of action in France on Tuesday

- The day of protests and strikes was backed by patient groups and anti-racist campaigners

- Health workers want pay rises, an end to cuts and closures and a transformation of the service

- Their action follows impressive anti-racist protests across France last weekend

- The actions show that it's possible to build resistance, even during a pandemic

"We will no longer be content with fine promises and half measures," they said.

Sara, a healthcare assistant in Marseille, told Socialist Worker, "The push for this day of action came from ordinary workers and campaign groups."

"There is this very strong feeling that we don't want to go back to how it was before Covid-19. But unless we do something, all the old, bad arrangements will return."

"In fact it's worse than that. The government is using the health crisis to push through changes that will make our job harder and leave us with less staff."

Strikers want substantial pay rises for all. Many groups want a rise of 300 euros—£270—a month.

They also want more staff, an end to cuts and a health service that meets everyone's needs.

Spirits were lifted on the eve of the strike when it was announced that a militant fightback by Bombardier engineering workers had defeated bosses' plans to take away a week's holiday.

Hundreds of workers at the Crespin site in northern France struck and blockaded the plant for a week.



On other pages...

Tory lockdown easing puts lives at risk >>Page 20



HEALTH WORKERS say, 'Caregivers exhausted—patients in danger'

PICTURE: PHOTOTHEQUE ROUGE/JMB

COVID-19

Virus tears through poorer countries as fears of a 'second wave' grip China

by **SARAH BATES**

THE GLOBAL coronavirus crisis is far from over.

The virus has infected more than 7.8 million people worldwide and killed more than 430,000, according to John Hopkins University data.

And as some European countries loosen lockdown restrictions, the virus continues to spread through some of the poorest parts of the globe. In India, more than 300,000 people have been infected and the number is rising by 10,000 every day.

Dr Harjit Singh Bhatti works on the Covid-19 ward of Delhi's Manipal hospital. He said two months of lockdown had been "wasted" because no investment was made in health care.

"Every day the number of patients is rising, while hospital admission is becoming impossible and many are dying outside hospitals," he said.

"Healthcare workers are all getting infected in droves and our healthcare system in Delhi is

already exhausted. If strong steps are not taken now, I expect the healthcare system to collapse in a few weeks."

Yet the Indian government is easing lockdown measures, with shopping malls and places of worship open for the first time in two months.

Brazil has overtaken Britain to become the country with the second highest Covid-19 death toll, suffering at least 41,901 fatalities.

Far right president Jair Bolsonaro has called the pandemic a "fantasy" and joined protests demanding the end of lockdown.

Crisis

Public health expert Daniel Dourado said Brazil was suffering "the worst public health crisis we've faced".

"It has come at a time when we have the worst government in the world," he added. "The country is adrift."

In Sudan the virus is beginning to spread through at least one refugee camp in the western Darfur region. Only 54 deaths have been recorded, but the real number is

likely to be much higher.

Poor sanitation and cramped living conditions mean that, once Covid-19 takes hold, it could spread quickly through the camp.

Gamal Abdulkarim Abdullah, director of the camp, said, "We're losing a whole generation."

Other countries, such as Afghanistan, are running out of vital kit. Some 10,000 people have been confirmed with Covid-19 in the capital Kabul.

Yet health authorities said people would no longer be tested for the disease, as they had run out of laboratory space.

And in the US, the lockdown is continuing to ease despite infection rates rising in 19 states.

President Donald Trump is even planning to hold mass election rallies from mid-June.

The country has recorded more than two million cases of Covid-19 and over 115,000 deaths.

In China, parts of Beijing have been locked down as people fear a second wave of the virus.

Some 36 new cases have been detected in the city and a further 19 across China.

Furlough is failing workers

DURING THE last two months on the furlough scheme, I've only been paid just over half of my wages and now it might get worse.

I've had just over half of my pay, not the 80 percent promised under furlough, and I still have had no answer from human resources as to why that is.

Now I received a letter, dated 27 May, saying there is not enough work for us to return to the office.

But the letter went on to state that we will be required to use annual leave entitlements.

They claim we will be paid 100 percent of pay, instead of 80 percent for the weeks that we are designated to be on annual leave.

Now, the issue is that the annual leave is proportionate to the length of service and I simply do not have the accrued annual leave.

I can see what will happen. I will eventually be informed that I did not have sufficient leave to be able to take paid leave.

And then they will say that I actually owe the company money.

They have done this before when I needed time off for medical reasons, clawing back over £400 of pay I was owed.

Management's attitude just seems to be, "We'll sort it out after coronavirus"—whenever that is.

Workers' needs are being constantly pushed to one side while all the attention is on the profitable health of the corporations.

Vivian Price
East Midlands



Solidarity with Black Lives Matter movement in Ireland

ALMOST 70 Black Lives Matter protesters have been issued with fines for attending the socially-distanced rallies in Derry and Belfast on Saturday 6 June.

Shockingly, the Northern Ireland Assembly rushed through emergency coronavirus powers for the police to issue these fines at 5pm the day before.

Organisers, many of them young BAME people, were visited and threatened by police that evening.

Three other protests in Newry, Omagh and Portadown were cancelled by organisers after similar police intimidation.

Justice minister Naomi Long defended the police actions as "proportionate".

Her Alliance Party, sister party of the Lib Dems, was held up as a progressive alternative in Northern

Ireland. Long was backed up by both Sinn Féin and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

Sinn Féin also sided with the DUP to oppose a motion condemning the fines and harassment that was put to Belfast City Council by People Before Profit councillor Matt Collins.

This is a disgraceful decision by Sinn Féin.

They have moved a long way from wanting to "Smash Stormont" to being the foremost defenders of the policing of dissent.

Protesters have pledged to challenge the fines in court and they are being backed by local migrant rights organisations and People Before Profit.

They point out that not a single police visit was made to the meat

processing factories, which stayed open during the lockdown. Workers at the plants died from the virus.

Protest organisers had gone to great lengths to ensure social distancing and provide protective masks. But on the day before the protests the Ikea store on the outskirts of Belfast re-opened, with massive queues, no social distancing and no police in sight.

Please sign and share a petition launched by Eamonn McCann, Bernadette McAliskey, Kate Nash and Dermie McClenaghan—all veterans of the 1968 Civil Rights movement. It calls for all fines and charges to be dropped.

Colm Bryce
South London

Sign at petition at chnng.it/hYGcTMMT

More NHS privatisation Black Lives Matter isn't a corporate brand

THE GOVERNMENT of Boris Johnson and Dominic Cummings is wholly committed to NHS privatisation.

Nothing demonstrates this better than the contracts it's been handing out during the pandemic.

They gave a contract for the provision of surgical masks and other equipment for over £2 million to a firm called Double Dragon International. It deals in tea, coffee and spices, has assets of £24,000 and is located on a residential street in Ilford,

east London. Even more astonishing, a contract worth £108 million was given to a pest control firm, PestFix, for the provision of face masks, gowns and visors. This firm employs 16 people and has assets of £18,000. They got the contract after filling in a form online.

The government's ideologically driven incompetence and privatisation fetish is costing lives.

John Newsinger
Brighton

THE BLACK Lives Matter (BLM) protests have thrown up a realisation among many black people that they can use the power of boycott.

This is really scaring big companies.

Lots of the big brands and tech companies use black sports people to sell their products.

In 2016 we organised BLM London protests outside stores on Oxford Street, but the companies refused to acknowledge how they use black people



Black Lives Matter protesters

without taking a stand.

Now I think the big brands realise that the BLM revolt is so broad and that they have to

accommodate to it.

By taking that position, they're hoping to calm things down. But what are they doing that's of any significance?

Are they increasing employment, are they giving funds for education, are there any changes in their board structure?

It's a gesture in troubling times for them and will go back to normal without a rising movement.

Moyra Samuels
West London

Just a thought...

Police racism and violence

WE SPENT a lot of time on education about race relations and multiculturalism in the 1990s to 2000s. And believe me, there needed to be education—but so much more needed to be done.

I remember David Cameron and Michael Gove rubbishing all our efforts.

When Gove was in charge of education, Dominic Cummings was advising him.

Says it all.

Sandra Rowan
On Facebook

● I HAD a boyfriend in the 1970s who went into the Metropolitan police.

He came out of Hendon police station, west London, with racist views.

I had to end the relationship.

Sharon Smyth
On Facebook

Inaccurate Momentum?

YOUR REPORT on Momentum is inaccurate (Socialist Worker, 18 May).

You state that Forward Momentum is a "faction". It is in fact a campaign to reform Momentum, democratise it and turn it out to the workplaces, unions, communities and campaigns.

It dissolves immediately after the election to the leading National Coordinating Group body at the end of June.

Nor is Forward Momentum "pro-remain". I moved the anti-Remain composite 14 motion at Labour conference and I am a candidate.

Please redraft the inaccurate article.

Alan Gibbons
Liverpool

Rhodes was a murderer

I REJOICED at the downing of a 17th century slave trade, Edward Colston, in Bristol.

The statue was erected in 1895 in Bristol at the high point of British imperialism, when the ruling class was murdering indigenous people around the world.

And it's worth remembering that Cecil Rhodes was also among that number.

Alan Watts
North London

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties.

We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

Socialist Workers Party online meetings

All the statues should fall—the legacy of slavery and empire



KNEELING ON the statue of Edward Colston

BIRMINGHAM

Wed 24 Jun, 7pm
291-634-5938

BLACK COUNTRY

Wed 24 Jun, 8pm
352-891-2411

BOLTON & WIGAN

Fri 26 Jun, 7pm
604-325-1447

BRIGHTON & HOVE

Thu 19 Jun, 6.30pm
889-9658-1654

CARDIFF

Wed 24 Jun, 7pm
630-181-4857

CHELMSFORD & SOUTHEAST

Wed 24 Jun, 7pm
836-7833-8366

COVENTRY

Wed 24 Jun, 7.30pm
587-183-5359

EDINBURGH

Wed 24 Jun, 7.30pm
431-459-112

HOME COUNTIES

Thu 25 Jun, 6pm
796-4370-4166

LEEDS

Thu 25 Jun, 6.30pm
856-912-7408

LONDON: HACKNEY

Thu 25 Jun, 7.30pm
798-534-2585

LONDON: SOUTH

Wed 24 Jun, 7pm
497-196-1801

MANCHESTER

Wed 24 Jun, 7pm
873 8714 8262

SHEFFIELD & SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Thu 25 Jun, 7pm
529-174-9278

SWANSEA

Wed 24 Jun, 7.30pm
248-448-3170

{ SOCIALIST WORKER }
ONLINE MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

BRADFORD

The revolutionary ideas of Angela Davis

Thu 25 Jun, 7pm
861-2644-6584

BRISTOL

By any means necessary—the revolutionary legacy of Malcolm X

Wed 24 Jun, 7pm
688-397-3148

BURNLEY & PENDLE
Socialism in the time of pandemics

Wed 24 Jun, 7.30pm
446-409-5118

CAMBRIDGE
Police, surveillance and the state

Thu 25 Jun, 5pm
681-800-4408

CHESTERFIELD

Is science neutral?

Thu 25 Jun, 6.30pm

828-532-8731

COLCHESTER
Anger to revolution—what makes people rise up?

Thu 25 Jun, 7pm
872-3074-2363

DUNDEE, ABERDEEN & PERTH
Does privilege theory explain racism?

Wed 24 Jun, 7.30pm
396-573-1805

GLASGOW

A rebel's guide to Malcolm X

Thu 25 Jun, 6.30pm
848-8101-4767

HUDDERSFIELD

Trump vs China—coronavirus and imperialism

Thu 18 Jun, 6pm

428-926-9492

KENT

Climate crisis and coronavirus—why we need system change

Thu 25 Jun, 8.15pm
434-623-8064

LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE
Is science neutral?

Thu 25 Jun, 6.30pm
992-204-9372

LIVERPOOL
Why workers' struggles matter

Wed 24 Jun, 7pm
493-925-5919

LONDON—HARINGEY

Africa and the legacy of empire today—a socialist in Ghana speaks

Wed 24 Jun, 7.30pm

459-388-1576

LONDON—ISLINGTON

Eugenics, coronavirus and capitalist crisis

Thu 25 Jun, 6.30pm
874-012-7970

LONDON—NEWHAM
Class, power and revolution in the Middle East

Wed 24 Jun, 7.30pm, 8.11-4659-1877

LONDON—SOUTH EAST
How the Black Panthers fought the state

Wed 24 Jun, 7.30pm
530-913-6390

LONDON—TOWER HAMLETS

Trump vs China—coronavirus and imperialism

Wed 24 Jun, 7.30pm

818-391-0420

LONDON—WALTHAM FOREST

Universal Basic Income—is it the answer?

Wed 24 Jun, 7.30pm
543-030-057

LONDON—WEST AND NW
By any means necessary—the revolutionary legacy of Malcolm X

Thu 25 Jun, 6pm
731-479-3555

NORWICH

Is science neutral?

Wed 24 Jun, 7.30pm

906-652-5299

NOTTINGHAM & DERBY

Capitalism, diet and the politics of food

Wed 24 Jun, 7pm

354-874-4790

OXFORD

Where does racism come from?

Thu 25 Jun, 6.30pm

819-8375-8981

PORTSMOUTH

Fake news and alternative facts—who controls the media?

Wed 24 Jun, 7.30pm

488-934-2809

SOUTHAMPTON

After Sanders—where next for the US left?

Wed 24 Jun, 7.30pm

381-513-5080

YORK & SCARBOROUGH

Stonewall to Pride—why we still fight for LGBT+ liberation

Wed 24 Jun, 7.30pm

827-489-7492

BOOKMARKS the socialist bookshop



The Labour Party—A Marxist History
by Tony Cliff, Donny Gluckstein and Charlie Kimber, £14.99



A Rebel's Guide to Engels
by Camilla Royle
£4



Hegel and Revolution
by Terry Sullivan and Donny Gluckstein, £7



Transgender Resistance
by Laura Miles
£10

1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE PHONE 020 7637 1848 WEB bookmarksbookshop.co.uk

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Email enquires@swp.org.uk
Post PO Box 74955
London E16 9EJ

Judy and Punch—ambitious, slightly clunky dark comedy

This strange drama turns the story of Punch and Judy into a tale of revenge against an abusive husband. But it doesn't always work, writes **Sarah Bates**

SET IN the town of Seaside, Judy and Punch is a magical retelling of the traditional British puppet show.

It follows married puppeteers Judy and Punch as they attempt to raise a child and make their show successful.

It's billed as a "black comedy drama".

Save for some well-deserved laughs, it's pretty horrific throughout.

There are some funny scenes involving dogs and sausages, but tragedy is never far away.

Mia Wasikowska stars as Judy. For those who are familiar with her work, it's not surprising that she manages to infuse the character with a depth beyond simply being a victim.

And Damon Herriman does a decent job of portraying Punch, although little is known about his character save for his proclivity for booze, violence and child abuse.

But it's not just Punch who poses a threat to Judy—Seaside is a highly dangerous place to be a woman.

Stonings and hangings are a regular town entertainment.

Women are targeted, often for being witches, and for such crimes as looking at the moon for too long or all their chickens dying.

Chaotic

Benedick Hardie is underused in his role as Seaside's new hapless constable, trying to understand the town's chaotic ways.

Punch is a violent, drunk bully, who terrorises Judy and beats her until she almost dies.

The film's third act centres on her quest for revenge.

Judy is spurred into action when she sees her beloved servants getting the blame for her baby's death.

Unable to return to Seaside, Judy



MIA WASIKOWSKA and Damon Herriman as Judy and Punch

joins a group of women and children exiled from the town. Generally they are women who are at risk of being denounced as witches because they are skilled artisans.

It's an ambitious project for director Mirrah Foulkes's debut, but at points feels too clunky.

Fine, Judy is able to exact some sort of revenge on Punch.

But the scene where she convinces Seaside to abandon their women

burning ways and embrace the exiled women is too cheesy.

And the film suffers from being too unfocused. I didn't feel I got to understand anything about Seaside in much depth.

Seaside is set in neither a specific time or place. That works well for the most part but leads to some truly offensive attempts at Irish and Scottish accents.

The exiled community seems

interesting—but save for some small pieces of exposition we don't find out much about them.

After centuries of the puppet Judy being beaten by husband Punch, it's refreshing to see him get his comeuppance.

But I couldn't help feel the film doesn't quite punch through in the points it's trying to make.

Available to stream on online platforms now

New documentary on the murder of Daniel Morgan

TELEVISION

MURDER IN THE CAR PARK

First episode shown on Channel 4 on Monday 15 June, now available on More4

MURDER IN The Carpark, a new three-part series from Channel 4, explores the most investigated unsolved murder in the history of the Metropolitan Police.

On 10 March 1987 private investigator Daniel Morgan was brutally murdered with

an axe in the car park of a south London pub.

There were no witnesses.

Four years in the making, the series tells the story of this unsolved murder.

Over the decades it's raised accusations of police corruption, links with the tabloid press, covert operations and the phone hacking scandal.

It asks how, with millions of pounds in public money spent, has no one ever been brought to justice for this heinous



Daniel Morgan

crime. Based on thousands of pages of documents, court testimony and often contradictory interviews, the series asks why the murder in the car park has never been solved.

For the first time ever Morgan's business partner, Jonathan Rees, ex-Metropolitan police detective Sid Fillery and Rees' former brother-in-law Glenn Vian will collectively give their accounts.

All three have been under investigation for over three decades. The

documentary hears from Daniel's brother Alastair Morgan.

He has been campaigning alongside his family tirelessly for the truth.

Alastair describes what it's been like for the Morgan family over the years, trying to keep the momentum going as numerous cases collapsed and investigations failed.

With an Independent Inquiry established by parliament, set to report in the next months, will there ever be justice?

TELEVISION

ATHLETE A

Available on Netflix from Wednesday 24 June

NETFLIX IS set to release a new documentary about "one of the greatest scandals in the history of sports".

The streaming service will release a feature-length look at the attempts made by Indianapolis reporters to unveil an "extensive cover-up" in USA Gymnastics.

Titled *Athlete A*, the film follows the story of a two-year investigation into claims of abuse. It saw USA Gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar imprisoned and dozens of coaches banned from the sport.

It will detail how abusers were "allowed to thrive"



Maggie Nichols

with hundreds of brave survivors speaking out about their experience.

The title refers to Maggie Nichols, who was called "Athlete A" after becoming the first survivor to come forward with her story.

FILM

THE FILMS OF YASUJIRO OZO

Available on the BFI subscription service at player.bfi.org.uk

THE BFI has made a series of films by Japanese director Yasujiro Ozo available on its streaming service as part of its Japan 2020 film festival.

Ozo is most famous for



From Tokyo Story

his home dramas.

They include silent film *I Was Born But...*

There's also *Tokyo Story*, which is described by the BFI as Ozo's "most enduring masterpiece. A beautifully nuanced exploration of filial duty, expectation and regret."

IS THERE a role for white people in the movement against racism? And what should it be?

These questions are raised by the global wave of explosive protests that followed the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor.

The demonstrations have been brilliantly militant and multiracial.

Images of black and white people defiant in the face of rubber bullets and pepper spray gives a glimpse of our potential power.

And they show how unity can be forged in struggle.

Many white protesters carry signs that attack white supremacy, complicity and ignorance.

Perhaps the most famous simply says, “White silence=violence.”

Slogans such as these reflect a popular common sense that “white society” is responsible for racism. It isn’t hard to see how so many arrive at this conclusion.

We live in a society soaked in racism, and the vast majority of the faces at the top of the system are white.

The politicians who lie about black lives, the cop arresting, the judge sentencing and the boss hiring and firing are all usually white.

The anger at “complicity” doesn’t stop there.

Among those liberals who declare themselves “colour blind” there is a less open racism that seeks to set limits on expressions of anger at racism.

It’s right to be angry at the slave trade and its legacy, they say, but it’s wrong to go around pulling down statues.

These people too are rightly targets of protesters’ ire.

Some concepts of white supremacy argue that all white people are to some degree racist—either consciously or unconsciously.

And “white privilege” means they all have a common interest in perpetuating prejudice.

Enlightened

There are, apparently, no exceptions, save for perhaps an enlightened few in the academic field of “whiteness studies”.

Robin DiAngelo, diversity trainer at the University of Washington and author of *White Fragility*, says, “The problem with white people is that they just don’t listen.”

“In my experience, day in and day out, most white people are absolutely not receptive to finding out their impact on other people.”

“There is a refusal to know or see, or to listen or hear, or to validate.”

DiAngelo argues that white people fear discussing racism because of the way they are implicated in it. She seems oblivious to the fact that on



MANY PROTESTERS say ‘silence is violence.’

ARE ALL WHITES RACIST?

Lots of white people have joined Black Lives Matter protests, but some say all whites hold some prejudices. Yuri Prasad explains why this idea disarms the struggle



Cornell West

hundreds of demonstrations black and white people are doing precisely that.

And it is good that protests are pushing people to deeply examine the society they live in, their role in it, and so on.

Black voices that are often suppressed are now rightly to the fore.

But there are three important problems with thinking that all whites hold racist ideas.

First, it blurs any distinction between types of racism.



Racism damages the interests of the entire working class

So the racism that drove the cop who killed George Floyd is the same as that of the white anti-racist protester with “inner prejudices”.

To link the murdering cop to the white protesters on the streets against them is a terrible slur upon anti-racism.

What is more, the vision of racism that it conjures up is so all encompassing that no force in society could ever defeat it.

Of course, within the anti-racist movement there are

important arguments about how we understand racism and who has the right to speak about it.

And people come into activity often with a mass of ideas, some brilliant and inclusive, others more tainted by prejudice.

It’s right to challenge racist ideas wherever they are found. Struggle is the best arena to tease out these differences and overcome some of the contradictions we carry in our heads.

We can use these periods to try and win a wider change in the way people think about race and racism.

The second problem is the unrelenting way anti-racism becomes centred on relationships between individuals, rather than between people and the system.

We are asked to focus on our interactions with others, and observe the myriad of ways in which power is manifested.

It is here, we are told, that we see racial prejudice at work.

But this quite deliberately misses out the way that racism is structured into capitalism.

Rather than blame the state for police racism, immigration controls and poverty, we are encouraged instead to look at white people and their individual biases.

THIS obscures the divide and rule strategy of society’s elite and swerves the question of institutional racism.

And instead of pointing to the origins of racism as a justification for the slave trade, it rests on an ahistorical notion of prejudice being “natural”.

That’s why the head of the Metropolitan Police was keen to embrace theories of “unwitting and implicit bias” to explain her force’s racism.

It was a desperate attempt to throw out the accusations of “institutional racism” that followed the 1993 murder of black teenager Stephen Lawrence.

Pioneering director of the Institute of Race Relations, Ambalavaner Sivanandan, long ago argued that theories about “individualised” racism were a planned diversion from the fight against state racism.

Attitudes

“People’s attitudes don’t mean a damn to me,” he said.

“The acting out of prejudice is discrimination, and when it becomes institutionalised in the power structure of society, then we are dealing not with attitudes but with power.”

“Racism is about power, not prejudice.”

And that power is not equally distributed. Power in a capitalist society rests in the hands of its elite—the ruling class—and those, such as the police, that do its bidding.

The purpose of racism in this context is to divide workers by casting one group as superior to

others. Of course black workers suffer the most from this tactic. But the impact on the working class as a whole is catastrophic.

By dividing workers, racism acts as a brake on self-activity. It damages the interests of the entire class—including those of white workers.

A third problem is that, despite its radical sounding rhetoric, declaring all whites to be to some degree racist is disarming.

Treating prejudice as so deeply engrained in the subconscious mind offers no route out of oppression. Instead the best we can hope for is that white people become aware of their prejudices, admit to them, and help expose them in others.

Generation

According to this philosophy, there is no way to truly break the circle of racist ideas that simply travel from one generation to the next. We can only hope for good laws to regulate our interactions.

Whites can, we are told, be “allies” in the struggle in certain circumstances. But their inability to feel racism means they lack an instinctual response.

This month we’ve seen cops throw an older white anti-racist to the ground—he suffered a bleed from the brain.

Several white protesters have lost an eye to police rubber bullets.

The idea that whites can only offer limited solidarity just doesn’t stand up.

US intellectual Cornell West last week talked about how president Donald Trump may be fantasising about a coming “race war” there.

He said, “The good news is that if there was a race war, we’ve got lot of white brothers and sisters on our side now.”

“And that makes a big difference.”

The protest movement has created a space in which millions of people feel that they can speak out against racism.

The once silenced voices of black working class people are now at the forefront.

And they find a ready echo among millions of white people for whom racism is an utter abhorrence.

The result of this combination is that, finally, the state has been pushed onto the defensive.

Murdering police officers who would normally have walked, will be tried.



Black and white unity during a strike (top) and to defend refugees (above)

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN



Forces that acted with impunity have had stations burnt to the ground and now, suddenly, are eager to look humble.

Politicians who spouted platitudes while refusing to tackle racism now find their actions in an uncomfortable spotlight.

And in workplaces, on social media feeds, and at thousands of street corners people are discussing how to break the hold of prejudice.

That is the power of militant protest—black, white and brown.

READ MORE

Say It Loud—Marxism and the fight against racism

● Edited by Brian Richardson

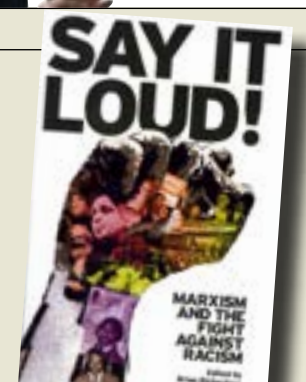
Are we all divided by privilege?

● Socialist Worker article by Esme Choonara
● bit.ly/privilegetheory

A Rebel’s Guide to Malcolm X

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COMMENT

Use funding debates to push for an end to the police

Demands to ‘defund the police’ are opening a wider argument, says **Sophie Squire**



THE WORD on the street—‘defund the police’

ANTI-RACIST protests in the US have pushed many police forces on to the defensive—and raised the idea of slashing spending on the cops.

What a refreshing change from the way debates around the police in the mainstream normally centre on a contest between different parties about how many more “officers on the beat” they are promising.

So the growing demand to divert police budgets into more useful services is something to be welcomed.

But socialists think we should go further than seeking more control over the cops, we want to abolish them altogether.

The people who rule our society tell us that the police are “key workers”—and protect and serve all equally.

But their real function is to protect capitalism.

The economic system we live under is based on exploitation and oppression, but that is not something that workers simply put up with.

There are regular explosions of resistance that need to be ruthlessly put down.

Violence

For the ruling class that means having an armed body of people prepared to use physical coercion to uphold the system.

That’s something that must be clear to everyone watching the scenes of protesters being teargassed and shot at by police in the US.

The Black Lives Matter movement is attacked this way precisely because it is a threat to the state.

The popular idea that the purpose of the police is to protect ordinary people from crime is a nonsense.

The proportion of crimes solved by police in England and Wales fell to the lowest level ever recorded last year, according to Home Office data.

Just 7.8 percent of

offenses saw someone charged or summonsed.

Police closed nearly half of all cases because no suspect could be identified.

A considerable amount of police time is spent in “proactive policing”, patrolling of poor neighbourhoods in order to supposedly deter crime.

But the real purpose of this activity is to appear “visible and “relevant”.

Police want to be seen stopping and searching young black people on the streets because it reinforces the idea that there is a problem with crime, and that they exist to deal with it.

For seven weeks at the end of 2014 New York cops were ordered to take a “slowdown” after the racist police murder of Eric Garner in the city’s Staten Island area.

The “slowdown” meant the police didn’t engage in as much proactive policing.

Surel without regular neighbourhood patrols levels of crime would soar? No. During the slowdown people reported fewer crimes than normal.

“When the proletariat is in power, it cannot permit the enemies of its class to become judges.

“The workers could hardly accept the representatives of capital or of the landed interest as administrators of the new laws which are intended to overthrow the capitalist regime!” they said. Socialists should get behind calls to defund the police and use the debates to take the argument far further.

FANNIE LOU HAMER

'I am sick and tired of being sick and tired'

by SARAH BATES

THE INDOMITABLE political activist Fannie Lou Hamer was one of the most urgent and important voices of the US civil rights movement.

The youngest of 20 children, Hamer was born on a sharecroppers' plantation in Mississippi, and would live on similar farms until she was 44 years old.

Hamer began fighting for the right to vote as a black woman after attending the Regional Council of Negro Leadership conferences held in a nearby town.

But it was with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) that she cut her teeth as an activist.

At the time, racist laws stopped black people from being able to register to vote.

On 31 August 1962 she tried to register to vote with a delegation of 17 other SNCC members.

"I guess if I'd had any sense, I'd have been a little scared," she said. "But what was the point of being scared?"

"The only thing the whites could do was kill me, and it



FANNIE LOU Hamer was a force in the fight against oppression and inequality

kinda seemed like they'd been trying to do that a little bit at a time since I could remember."

Not only were they denied the right to vote based on failing a literacy test, cops harassed them on the way home.

They were fined \$100 on the trumped up charge that the school bus they were

travelling was "too yellow".

The fallout didn't stop there.

That night, Hamer was fired from the plantation and kicked off the land.

This was despite telling her boss, "I didn't register to vote for you, I registered to vote for me". Eleven days later white

supremacists shot the house they thought Hamer was staying in 16 times.

Hamer was victorious in registering to vote—but her direct action didn't stop, and neither did the harassment.

She was arrested in 1963 for sitting in a "whites only" bus station cafe in Charleston,

south Carolina. As a result, Hamer endured a vicious beating and sexual assault inside a police cell.

Although Hamer never fully recovered from the attack, she threw herself into organising when she returned to Mississippi.

She looked to the Democrat Party as a mechanism for giving black people better political representation.

Challenged

Hamer co-founded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party—a faction within the wider organisation which challenged racism within the party.

She was chosen to address the 1964 Democrat convention, where she argued her delegation should replace the all-white one from Mississippi.

She said, "Is this America, the land of the free and the home of the brave, where we have to sleep with our telephones off the hooks because our lives are threatened daily because we want to live as decent human beings in America?"

Although she unsuccessfully ran for the US Senate

that year, Hamer was first and foremost a grassroots political activist.

"I can't afford to sit down and do nothing when I know something out there is happening," she said.

"I'm going get out there and do something about it."

And in 1971, she co-founded the National Women's Political Caucus—a group dedicated to supporting women seeking election in government.

As well as looking to the Democrats and formal political representation for change, Hamer focused on tackling poverty and bad housing in Mississippi.

Hamer said that since the police beating in 1963, "that nothing would stop me but death". And nothing did.

Fanny Lou Hamer died on 14 March 1977 at just 59 years old.

According to her dying wishes, Hamer wasn't buried on a plantation, but on land she owned.

Her tombstone is inscribed one of her most famous quotes—"I am sick and tired of being sick and tired."

This is the first in a series about radical black lives

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Covid-19 support ends and homeless people turfed out

The Tory government promised to help care for homeless people during the pandemic. But policies threaten to make their lives worse, writes **Sadie Robinson**

COUNCILS have already begun pressuring homeless people to leave temporary accommodation as the Tories ease the coronavirus lockdown.

The government had instructed councils to house homeless people by late March to protect them from Covid-19. Yet many waited weeks to receive any help and lots of people didn't get any temporary housing at all.

And now even those who were temporarily housed could be turfed back onto the streets.

In Walthamstow, east London, around 23 homeless people are currently living at the old Parker Dairies Depot site in Wood Street.

The owner said people could stay until other accommodation was found.

But on 26 May Waltham Forest Council's Planning Enforcement team sent a letter to the Rough Sleepers Project there.

It instructed the group to "cease the use of the land as a homeless shelter no later than Monday 1 June 2020". Campaigners say there was no prior warning.

Unacceptable

It said use of the land to house homeless people had "been found to be unacceptable" with provided no details. East London Unite Community activist Peter told Socialist Worker, "The council tried to frighten people off the site with this threatening letter."

"This is about a heartless council evicting destitute rough sleepers."

Homeless people across Britain will be facing a similar situation. Peter said pressure should be put on councils but also the government.

HOMELESS PEOPLE have not been getting enough help during the pandemic

"I'm not a fan of how local authorities treat homeless people but this is a national crisis," he said. "The government previously said it's going to do what it takes. So let's see the colour of its money."

The Tories' Everyone In scheme was launched to fund temporary accommodation for homeless people during the coronavirus crisis. Yet funding is due to end this month.

And a decade of austerity mean many councils were already facing bankruptcy before the pandemic hit.

Tory housing minister Luke Hall suggested recently that street homeless people could live with family or friends.

"People were shocked," said Peter. "Does the government really think people who are rough sleeping have a nice place they could just roll up to?"

He said the reality is that the government is trying to "reassert control" as the lockdown eases.

Homeless people will face a desperate situation if they are evicted from temporary accommodation.

"During a Covid-19 era, they won't get temporary jobs," explained Peter. "They will have great difficulty reinstating any benefit claims and might have to wait weeks before getting any money."

"It's harder to beg as there are fewer people around, and people are more cautious of interacting with strangers. Most of the shelters are closed and they will be less able to cope. If people didn't have dependencies or mental illnesses before this, they certainly will have afterwards."



A racist measure

Migrants left in destitution

MANY of those at the site are Eastern European and have "no recourse to public funds" (NRPF).

If they are forced to leave, they won't have the right to claim benefits and could be at risk of destitution—or deportation.

Peter told Socialist Worker, "Some people have been advised to disappear."

They've been warned that the Border Force may be coming round in the near future."

NRPF is a racist immigration measure that bars around one million migrants from accessing benefits or social housing.

The government in March said that during the pandemic it would "utilise alternative powers and funding" to those with NRPF.

But the closure of the Everyone In scheme is due to disproportionately affect those with NRPF.

No return to normal

THE St Mungo's housing charity pressuring the government to stop vulnerable people being thrown back onto the streets.

It said, "The government needs to guarantee no one will be forced out of their emergency accommodation without being offered suitable alternative housing."

The charity wants the government to provide funding for councils and "to pay for housing for people with no recourse to public funds".

It's estimated that 15,000 people have been housed during the lockdown.

It's not enough. But it's proof that big changes can be made fast.

Government and council pass on the blame

THE PARKER Dairies project cleaned up a site that was empty for four years.

Ordinary people in Walthamstow have backed it.

Crowd-funding helped raise funds for facilities at the site.

A local Tandoori restaurant, a café and churches have donated food.

There isn't so much support from the council, though.

Tory housing minister Luke Hall wrote to councils on 26 March.

He said rough sleepers and other vulnerable homeless should be "supported into appropriate accommodation



LUKE HALL—FALLING short

by the end of the week".

It was 22 April by the time the Parker Dairies site was up and running.

When people raised concerns

about homeless people on the streets, one council spokesperson appeared to blame homeless people themselves.

"The homeless people seen around Leytonstone station have been offered support by outreach workers," they said.

"Some of them are engaging at a slow pace, some have vulnerabilities and others have substance misuse."

"One rough sleeper refused to engage with the homeless services, substance misuse support, and has also committed several criminal offences."

Peter pointed out that those staying at the site have

all applied to be registered on the national scheme for street homeless.

People have shown they are "willing to comply with often inflexible scheme requirements". These include being told to move elsewhere at short notice.

Of course many homeless people have addictions, mental health problems and other difficulties.

This is usually linked to being forced to endure dire living situations.

Painting homeless people as a problem and as beyond help lets those responsible for supporting them off the hook.

Not every cloud has a silver lining

THE SCALE of the climate catastrophe could be far worse than predicted, according to new research.

Data suggests that the climate is even more sensitive to carbon emissions than previously thought.

The research looks at the amount of warming expected as carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere continue to rise. It showed that there was due to be a 5 degree rise, rather than the 3 degrees predicted in 2014.

"This is a very deep concern," said Johan Rockstrom, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.

"For 40 years it has been around 3 degrees. Now, we are suddenly starting to see



Scientist Johan Rockstrom

big climate models on the best supercomputers showing things could be worse than we thought."

The new studies come as scientists gather data for the next major assessment by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. It is set to be released in 2021.

And the dramatic increase in predicted temperature rises comes as a scientists reconsider the role of clouds in climate catastrophe.

Clouds can warm and heat up the atmosphere, but most modelling has suggested they will have a neutral effect on global heating.

But now a growing body of research and more sophisticated computer modelling suggests they will have a warming effect.

A 5 degree temperature rise will mean unimaginable horror on a global scale.

That level of global warming will mean blistering heats in some of the poorest parts of the world, food scarcity, rising sea levels and extreme weather.

It's another argument urgently to break with fossil fuels and capitalism which is burning the planet for profit.

Sarah Bates

Pregnant women and new mothers hit hardest

by CHARLIE KIMBER

PREGNANT WOMEN and women who have recently had children are facing intensified discrimination during the coronavirus crisis.

It's a powerful example of the attacks on workers that are being carried out under the cover of "a time of emergency".

A new report from the TUC union federation found that one in four pregnant women and new mothers have experienced unfair treatment or discrimination at work.

Examples include being singled out for redundancy or furlough.

One pregnant woman said, "I was the only one being singled out and threatened with furlough."

"It's only after HR got involved that they offered me an alternative solution and then my team leader changed her attitude towards me."

Another added, "I feel like I either won't have a job to come back to or when I do come back the role will be of lower respect within the company."

Pregnant women's health and safety rights are being routinely disregarded, leaving women feeling unsafe at work or without pay when they are unable to attend their workplaces.

Low paid women face the worse treatment.

In the survey, they were almost twice as likely as women on median to high incomes to have lost pay and or been forced to stop work.

Some have been pushed to take sick leave when they were not sick.

Workplace

Others have taken unpaid leave, started their maternity leave early or leave the workplace altogether because of unaddressed health and safety concerns.

The discrimination is sharpest for black and Asian women, young women and disabled women.

One disabled woman said, "My employer did not listen to my concerns around health and safety and made working there extremely difficult."

"I am epileptic and my seizures got significantly worse and my employer refused to put things in place to protect me and my baby."

In addition nearly three quarters of new mothers planning to return to work in the next three months are currently unable to find childcare.

Responding to the survey, Rehana Azam, national secretary of the GMB union, said, "The findings are shocking but come as no surprise to GMB."

"Discrimination against pregnant employees and working mums is nothing new—and is not a result



WE NEED more struggles like the strike for equal pay by women council workers in Glasgow

PICTURE:

of the Covid-19 outbreak.

"It's completely unacceptable to GMB and should be similarly unacceptable to ministers and business alike."

The TUC calls for measures including changes to health and

safety practices and an extension of the job retention scheme for parents who cannot find childcare.

But none of these will be implement without struggle, particularly by employers who have seen their profits squeezed during

lockdown.

This is why the TUC's preference for "social partnership" with firms is so dangerous.

Without a battle, the sort of practices it details will continue—and worsen.

Councils face coronavirus costs crisis

ENGLISH COUNCIL leaders are warning of a bleak future unless they receive more funding to cope with the costs of coronavirus.

The mayors of London, Greater Manchester, Sheffield and Liverpool issued a joint statement last week to ask for more support from central government.

London mayor Sadiq Khan said there's "a very serious risk that the economic recovery from Covid-19 will be choked off by a new era of austerity" unless "the government acts immediately".

Tory prime minister Boris Johnson promised an additional £63 million at prime minister's



London mayor Sadiq Khan

questions last week.

But this will only scratch the surface.

For instance, councils across the Liverpool city region said that their Covid-19 expenses will be around £341 over the next six months.

Yet they have only been allocated £100 million from central government.

There is a battle on the horizon over who pays for the Covid-19 crisis.

As central and local governments pass the buck to each other, ordinary people should prepare to fight for jobs and services.

HEALTH WORKERS

Protest says black lives matter at work

by BEN WINDSOR

OVER 50 people protested against institutional racism outside St George's hospital and medical school in Tooting, south London, on Monday.

The event was jointly called by the GMB, UVW and Unite union branches at the site, with the support of the Wandsworth Stand Up To Racism group.

St George's is one of the biggest workplaces in London, employing 9,000 people.

Nearly half of them are black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) workers.

Many face low pay and discrimination in society and at work.

Gloves

So Monday's protest was a significant step forward.

It is no accident that the UVW played a role. It has led militant strikes among low-paid workers in recent months—and recruited new members as a result.

At St George's the GMB and UVW represent many of the outsourced cleaners and security guards who are overwhelmingly BAME, and



PROTESTING ON Monday

PICTURE: BEN WINDSOR

have been campaigning for parity with NHS staff.

The pandemic has brought things to a head.

Besides the long running issues about discrimination over pay, conditions, disciplinaries and promotion, coronavirus has starkly illustrated inequalities over the provision of PPE.

Although many health workers have been struggling to get hold of it, those protesting on Monday felt they have been at the back

of the queue. Sadly at least three cleaners employed by Mitie at St George's have died from the virus.

A sign of the strength of the feeling over the issue was an extraordinary letter sent by the CEO last month to all staff.

She wrote about the importance of challenging racism in the Trust, committing herself to take it seriously.

It went way beyond the usual management platitudes, so it represents a useful opening.

MORE THAN five million people, including 1.3 million key workers, are paid less than the Real Living Wage of £10.75 an hour, research revealed on Monday.

The sectors with the most low-paid, insecure workers were wholesale, retail, and repair of vehicles, with 830,000 employees—plus health and social work with 640,000.

The study came from the Living Wage Foundation and New Economics Foundation.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

PAY

Vote No to this pay deal

ABOUT 100,000 council workers in the Unite union will take part in a consultative ballot on a pay and conditions offer for 2020-21.

The 2.75 percent pay offer amounts to a rise of as little as £1.83 a day.

The Local Government Employers' offer was made in April. Unite says it "has been met with astonishment and disbelief at the lack of respect and regard shown to essential workers who have been supporting our communities throughout the crisis".

The ballot of workers in England and Wales is set to run from 3 July to 14 August.

Workers should vote to reject the offer.

But it will take serious strikes to force the Tories and local government employers to cough up more.

TOWER HAMLETS

Action call in east London

WORKERS IN Tower Hamlets are preparing for strikes after bosses renewed attacks on their pay, terms and conditions.

The Labour-run council in east London is trying to roll out the Tower Rewards programme. This would slash workers' redundancy pay and severance pay.

Now Unison union members have voted to strike on 3, 6, 7, 14, 15 and 16 July.

Unison and NEU union members were preparing for strikes in March and April, but called off the action because of coronavirus.

In response, the council pushed back the implementation day to July.

Workers have been ready for strikes for many months—now is the time to turn words into action.

SCHOOLS

Chaos threatens to burst the Tories' school bubble

>>>continued from page 20 to wider numbers. Public Health England (PHE) data for the last week of May reported "an increase in school outbreaks, with 15 acute respiratory infection outbreaks in schools reported".

The Tories want more children in schools so they can push more parents back to work.

It's right to demand that children are not forced back to school—or parents to workplaces—until it is safe.

The NEU union said its five tests had to be met,

including a proper track and trace system, before it would be safe to reopen schools.

Its new ten-point plan includes demands for free school meals to be provided over the summer and "blended" learning from September. This would give children a combination of school and home learning.

We should of course demand much more support for children and parents.

But we shouldn't let real fears about the impact of the lockdown on children be used to push people back to unsafe schools

ROYAL PARKS WORKERS

Fight to win holiday rights

AROUND 20 of London's Royal Park attendants who are outsourced to multinational company Vinci appeared in court this week.

It was the first stage of their legal claim alleging that they have been unlawfully denied their full entitlement to 28 days annual leave per year.

The workers have 150 years service between them and some of them have been working for over 20 years. Yet they have been permitted to take only eight days instead of the legal minimum of 28 days for full time workers.

Other park attendants were permitted their full entitlement but were only paid at their contractual rate of pay rather than their actual rate of pay which is unlawful.

The claim is based on entitlements found in the Working Times Regulations 1998.

These same park attendants recently won the London Living Wage through strike action in 2019. They gained a pay rise from the

then minimum wage of £8.21 per hour to the London Living Wage of £10.75.

UVW union members at the Royal Parks are migrant, majority BAME, workers and are also involved in UVW's legal case against outsourcing.

The case will also begin proceedings this month.

One Royal Parks attendant said, "Vinci is a thieving company. Any way it can it will find a way to steal from the little people."

"Whether it is annual leave, or your wages, you always seem to be missing money somewhere or another."

"We hope this legal case will show everyone what Vinci is really like, and get us the money we are owed."

Richard O'Keefe, UVW's head of legal services said, "It is not in dispute that Vinci have denied our members their full annual leave entitlement and have dramatically underpaid them."

"We urge Vinci to pay our members what they are owed. Our members have not ruled out industrial action."

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

Action needed on funding

THE UCU union has launched a campaign demanding the government puts forward a plan to protect universities and colleges.

The "Fund the Future" campaign wants the government to provide financial guarantees to protect education and jobs.

The union has called on others to support the campaign and contact their local MPs over the issue.

In a letter to Boris Johnson, UCU general secretary Jo Grady warned that "an estimated 30,000 jobs in higher education are at risk".

She highlighted a report by London Economics that

said universities could face £2.5 billion losses of income from tuition fees and teaching grants. A fall in the number of international students coming to study in Britain could cost the sector around £2 billion.

And the Association of Colleges has estimated that further education could lose up to £2 billion.

Grady said the government has so far taken "very limited actions" that are "inadequate" to protect jobs and education.

"We desperately need a clear and coherent plan that guarantees funding and jobs," she said.

Go to fundthefuture.org.uk to find out more

NHS SCOTLAND

SNP claps NHS workers but won't pay them extra

NHS WORKERS are angry that the Scottish government has refused to reopen talks over pay.

A Unison union survey of its members found 87 percent think the health service should consider a further pay award this year, and 72 percent say they are exhausted after work.

It also shows 80 percent say they are tired or very tired, and 30 percent feel they are not getting adequate breaks.

NHS workers described having to buy their own PPE, facing extra costs with public transport shutting, as well as the increase in bills due to more laundry being done.

One told Unison, "clapping and banging pots and pans don't pay bills".

Unison called on Scottish health secretary Jeane Freeman to reopen talks on this year's pay deal.

But the SNP administration refused.

Willie Duffy, Unison Scotland's head of health, said, "Our survey shows the strength of feeling among health workers."

"NHS staff across Scotland are angry that Jeane Freeman has not agreed to reopen talks on NHS pay for 2020-21."

"We all welcomed our health secretary and first minister Nicola Sturgeon clapping for our 'brilliant NHS workers'."

"But it's disappointing that the thanks appears to end at a round of applause, after Ms Freeman has not agreed to reopen pay talks."

TORIES PUSH FOR LOCKDOWN END

THE TORIES were patting themselves on the back this week—despite the official coronavirus death toll in Britain climbing to over 40,000 and millions of workers facing unemployment.

Tory prime minister Boris Johnson is pushing ahead with lifting the lockdown.

He urged people to “shop and shop with confidence” as high street stores deemed “non-essential” reopened on Monday.

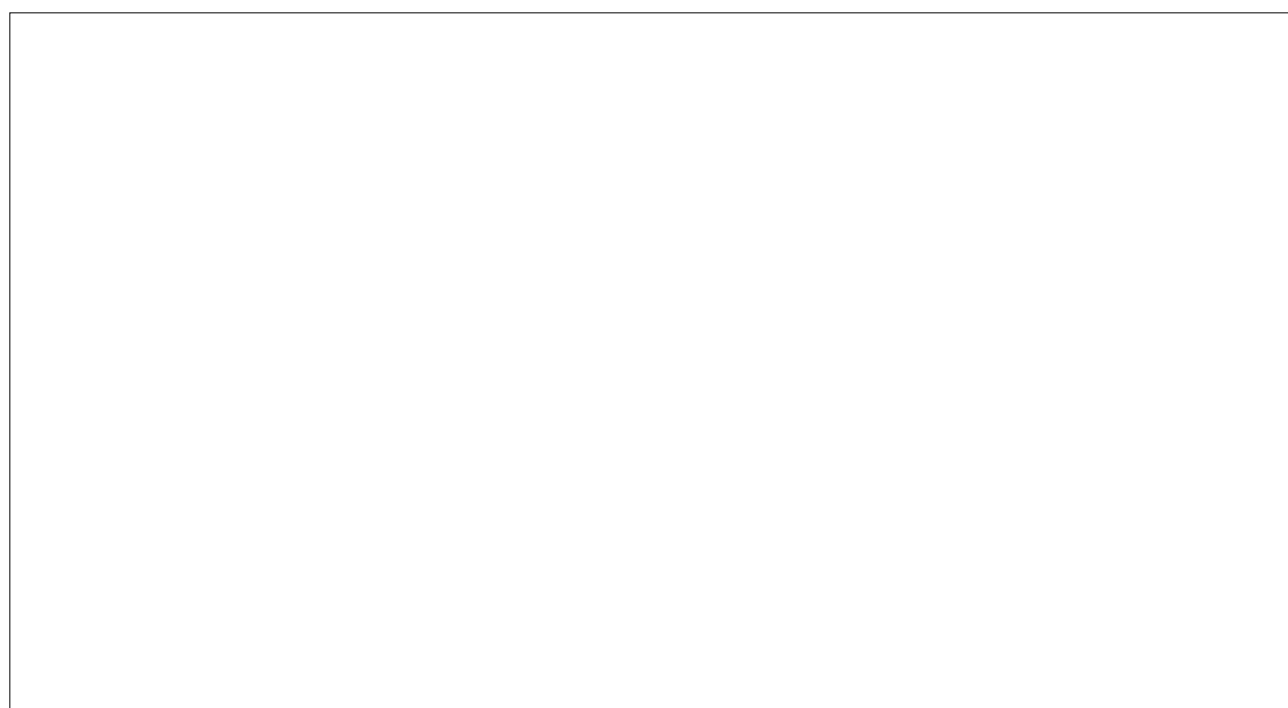
Johnson said people should “observe the rules on social distancing”.

But the Tories have commissioned a review to look into relaxing the two metre social distancing rule.

It’s set to report back on 4 July on when pubs and restaurants would be able to reopen. And some ministers—including chancellor Rishi Sunak—have been trying to speed up their reopening in England.

Sunak was at pains to say it would only be relaxed “if it’s safe and responsible”.

But he made clear the government was being driven by the priorities of big business not people’s health.



“THIS WAY to disaster”—Rishi Sunak wants to speed up reopening businesses

“Everyone would like to see that reduced from an economic perspective,” he told BBC Radio 4 on Monday morning.

The push for a return to work has been accelerated

by Johnson’s determination to defend adviser Dominic Cummings, who publicly broke the lockdown rules.

To hide how they’re putting profit before health, the Tories and big business are

putting forward arguments that sound progressive in a bid to end the lockdown.

So architects of austerity—such as Tory former chancellor George Osborne—say they want to reopen

schools to help disadvantaged children (see below). And bosses claim they want to reopen the economy to stop mass unemployment.

The scale of the economic crisis is huge, with the British

economy contracting by more than 20 percent in April.

A report from the Learning and Work Institute has warned that unemployment could reach four million by December—a rate of around 10 percent. This is higher than any rate since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

One in three working age adults are already unemployed or reliant on coronavirus job retention schemes. When the furlough schemes end in the autumn, there is likely to be a sharp rise in unemployment.

Another report—from the Treasury select committee—said that around one million have been locked out of all of the coronavirus support schemes.

This include many hospitality workers who rely on tips, the bogus self-employed and those who started working after the cut-off date to claim support.

Unions need to fight against any unsafe return to work and attempts to make working class people pay for the coming slump.

The money is there to protect people’s lives and livelihoods.

EDUCATION

Chaotic and unsafe school reopening plan could burst the Tories’ bubble

by SADIE ROBINSON

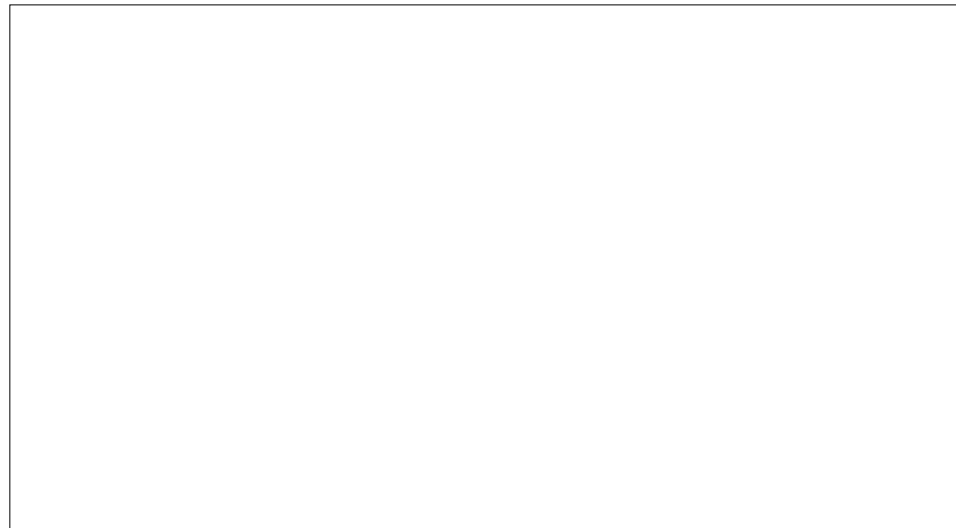
SECONDARY schools across England began opening to wider numbers of children on Monday of this week.

It follows a series of warnings about how the further reopening of schools could spread coronavirus.

Some ten schools across Lincolnshire reported confirmed or suspected virus cases just eight days after wider reopening of primaries began on 1 June.

One school was forced to close and others had to send children home.

In at least two schools,



School students are starting to go back—but many parents are still keeping their children at home

a worker was sent home after testing positive.

One teacher said, “I don’t think we’ve had enough guidance from the government on how to reopen safely.

“I think this is the start in a rise of infections.

“It could lead to a second wave.”

A child at Kings Oak Primary Learning Centre in Wombwell, South Yorkshire, tested positive for coronavirus last week.

The “bubble” that the child was in immediately closed. Other children in the bubble were asked to self-isolate for two weeks.

Widespread fears among

parents and workers has scuppered the Tories’ school plans. They wanted children in reception, year one and year six to return from 1 June. And they wanted children in all primary years back before the summer.

Yet many schools have only had a limited reopening.

Lots of parents have kept children home. And the Tories last week admitted that all primary years would not return before the summer.

Virus cases were rising in schools even before they began reopening

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